

TOTAL FIRE BAN EXCEPTIONS

– BUSH FIRES REGULATIONS 1954 (regulations 24ZM-24ZR)

Catering Activity

Prescribed activity and conditions

This information is to assist persons who would otherwise require an exemption under section 22C of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to carry out catering activity in the open air during a total fire ban (TFB).



What conditions do I need to comply with to carry out catering activity during a TFB?

During a total fire ban, catering activity may only be carried out in the course of trade or commerce, and only when:

- the Fire Danger Rating is not Catastrophic, and
- all of the following conditions are complied with:

Note: to conduct cooking activities during restricted and prohibited burning times which involve the use of an open flame, an application for a section 25A exemption will need to be submitted to DFES.

- ✓ Notification must be provided to DFES and the relevant local government between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the catering activity commencing using the [online notification form](#) on the DFES website.
- ✓ If the catering activity is to be carried out within 3 km of land managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Parks and Wildlife Services, notification must be provided to the relevant local District or Regional Officer of the Parks and Wildlife District Duty Officer between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the catering activity commencing.
- ✓ The ground within a 10 m radius of the catering activity must be clear of inflammable material.
- ✓ If an appliance involved in catering burns solid fuel, the burning fuel must be sealed from the open air if the appliance has a sealable door, or be sufficiently contained to prevent the spread of sparks or fire.
- ✓ Any chimney on the catering appliance must be designed and constructed to prevent sparks from escaping.
- ✓ If there is no reticulated water supply available on a catering site, you must have an approved fire hose (see definition next page) connected to an approved storage tank (see definition next page).

- ✓ If there is reticulated water supply available a hose must be provided that is in proper working order and is connected to an approved storage tank, or the reticulated water supply. If the hose is connected to a storage tank it must be an approved fire hose. If connected to the reticulated water supply it does not need to be an approved fire hose but must be able to securely connect to the water supply.
- ✓ The hose used must be located so it can reach the catering activity and the ground within a 20 m radius of the activity.
- ✓ At least two approved fire extinguishers (see definition) in proper working order must be located within close proximity to the catering activity.
- ✓ At all times when the catering activity is being carried out, and for at least 30 minutes after it is completed, an able-bodied person trained in the operation of approved fire extinguishers must remain on the catering site (see definition), and must not leave until they are satisfied that any burning solid fuel in the appliance has been extinguished and there is no fire or anything likely to cause a fire on the catering site.

Note: The able-bodied person may in this case be the catering operator, provided they are trained in the use of approved fire extinguishers.
- ✓ Once the catering activity is completed, if there is any burning solid fuel (such as coal, briquettes or wood) in the appliance it must be completely extinguished before the appliance is transported from the catering site.

Definitions

Catering activity means any of the following activities undertaken for the purpose of cooking food:

- the use in open air of an appliance that consumes solid fuel;
- the use in the open air of an appliance comprising fire;
- the use in the open air of a cooking process which produces fire (for example, flambéing).

Note: Catering activity does not include the use of an enclosed gas barbeque at a person's home or in a designated barbeque area where there is no combustible material within 5 m of the barbeque.

Catering site, in relation to catering activity, means the place at which the catering activity is carried out.

Approved fire extinguisher for an activity means a fire extinguisher suitable to extinguish a fire likely to occur in relation to the activity; and has a capacity of at least 9 kg or 9 L; and complies with the current Australian Standards.

Approved fire hose means a fire hose that is:

- ✓ at least 20 m in length; and
 - ✓ at least 19 mm in diameter; and
 - ✓ fitted with an adjustable nozzle having a full spray pattern capable of projecting a 6m jet of water.
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Approved storage tank means a storage tank situated on land or mounted on a vehicle; and contains at least 400 L of water; and has an approved pump in proper working order attached.

Ways to keep informed of a TFB:

A TFB is declared the evening before it is to take effect. You can check after 6.00pm to see if a TFB has been declared for the following day.

- Call TFB hotline 1800 709 355
- Visit <https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au>
- Call 13 DFES (133 337)
- Listen to ABC local radio and other media outlets
- Check roadside Fire Danger Rating signs
- Follow DFES on Facebook or Twitter
- Subscribe to RSS at the following link to receive email notifications <https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#cap-rss>



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Follow the steps!

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| Check | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm if it's a TFB• DFES Total Fire Ban + www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#totalfirebans• Phone: TFB hotline 1800 709 355 |
| Notify | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notify DFES and the relevant local government by completing the DFES online notification form between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the activity commencing.• Notify Parks and Wildlife Service (P&W) between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the activity commencing where the activity is occurring within 3 kms of land managed by P&W. |
| Proceed | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject to prescribed activity conditions, proceed with the activity as required. |

Can anyone carry out this activity during a TFB?

No – the prescribed activity can only be carried out in the course of trade or commerce, or by (or on behalf of) a public authority. This activity is NOT allowed to be carried out during a TFB by the general public. For more information on restrictions during a TFB, please refer to the DFES website www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans

Penalties for non-compliance with activity conditions:

Stakeholders who do not comply with the conditions within the Regulations may receive an infringement of \$1,000, or upon conviction receive a penalty of \$25,000 and/or be jailed for 12 months.

Who should I contact if I need further information?

Please call the Total Fire Ban Hotline (available 24/7) on 1800 709 355 or email exemptions@dfes.wa.gov.au during business hours.

dfes.wa.gov.au



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